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Medical Facilities in Tbilisi

1. Under the peacetime circumstances after World War II, medical services in Tbilisi, if not first-class, were quite adequate. Equipment was adequate, facilities were kept reasonably clean, and the doctors and nurses were sufficient in number. (During World War II none of this was true.)
 - a. Dental equipment, in comparison with what I have seen in West Germany, was relatively primitive, although I think the Soviet dental services were adequate to good.
 - b. Clinics and hospitals in Tbilisi were staffed with a number of specialists to handle most serious or complicated cases. However, some specialized cases, such as delicate brain operations, had to be sent to other medical centers, such as Moscow, for treatment.
 - c. There were some veterinarian services available in Tbilisi, but the usual centers for such services were ordinarily located in the villages surrounding a city.
 - d. All medical services were free, as was the dispensing of drugs and medicines, for those who availed themselves of state facilities. However, if a person preferred to have private care or to obtain his own medicines, he could do so at a nominal cost. Drugs were quite inexpensive and quite good, much less expensive, for example, than I have observed them to be in Germany.
2. The city of Tbilisi was divided into eight separate districts for purposes of medical services. Each district had its clinic (rayonnaya ambulatoriya) where specialists of all kinds could be found. If the patient were not sure of his ailment, his case was first diagnosed by a general practitioner who then assigned a specialist when necessary. When the patient was able, he would go himself to the clinic; but if unable to do so, he could call a doctor to his home for

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diagnosis and treatment. If the case warranted hospitalization, the patient was then assigned to one of the hospitals in the city. Each regional clinic had its section for prenatal and postnatal care (detskaya konsultatsiya) where expectant and new mothers could receive medical advice. There were also two large lying-in homes (rodil'nyy dom) in Tbilisi, one of which was located on Ol'ginskaya Ulitsa.

3. There were four large hospitals located in Tbilisi, each of which had approximately 1,500 beds:
 - a. Hospital i/n Aramyants, in Navtlugi Rayon;
 - b. Mikhailovskaiy Hospital on Plekhanovskaya Ulitsa;
 - c. Railway Hospital (Zheleznno-Dorozhnaya Bol'nitsa) on Ulitsa Ordzhonikdze;
 - d. The City Hospital (Gorodskaya Bol'nitsa) located on Universitetskaya Ulitsa.

There was also a hospital on Kamo Ulitsa for treatment of the insane.

4. There were six specialized institutes in Tbilisi for the study of particular diseases:
 - a. Tuberculosis Institute, located on Melikishvili Ulitsa. There were several excellent sanatoriums to which patients were sent in the region of the Turkish border, at Abastuman, Arazindz Oblast;
 - b. Institute for the Study of Tropical Diseases, located on Plekhanovskaya Ulitsa, devoted to the study of malaria, yellow fever, leprosy, etc.;
 - 50X1 c. Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Institute [location unknown].
 - 50X1 d. Venereal Disease Institute [location unknown].
 - 50X1 e. Cancer Institute (Institut Rakovykh Zabolevaniy) [location unknown].
 - f. A so-called Kurortological Institute, devoted to scientific and research activities.

Medical Facilities in Tkvarcheli

5. There was a very good 200-bed hospital at Tkvarcheli. Ten doctors were on the staff, and facilities and equipment were adequate; equipment included an X-ray machine. For other than common diseases or ailments, patients were sent to Tbilisi or to Sukhumi. (I might add that in Tkvarcheli a medical station (Medpunkt) was located at each mine at which several medical assistants were in attendance.)

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